

The commission is charged with advancing the public interest, not corporate interest. Often these two interests converge, but in this case of broadcast ownership, these two interests strongly diverge. Increased corporate profits are not a justification for depriving the public of a rich, diverse media. In fact, such a media is essential for the proper functioning of a democracy.

Additional news channels on alternate media, such as the Internet, reach only a fraction of the number of people that television does. Therefore the existence of these alternate channels does not justify decreasing the ownership base of television and newspaper outlets.

I urge you to do the right thing for the American people and for our system of government by voting against deregulating media ownership rules. Your children and grandchildren will thank you.